THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of AIDS cases and deaths reported during the last 3 years is as under. Further it is difficult to comment on the decline following the availability of cheaper drugs in India as GoI initiated the free ART programme from April, 2004.

Year	AIDS Cases Reported	AIDS Deaths Reported
1997	1984	Not available
1998	1597	Not available
1999	3325	1875*
2000	8578	471
2001	13639	1039
2002	19077	1247
2003	21587	1541
2004	27432	1324

*Cumulative number upto 1999

(c) It is proposed to establish 100 centres in the country by the end of this financial year. Excise duty has also been exempted on 10 ARY drugs. At present 40 hospitals are providing free ART services to about 15000 patients.

Pending Medical Bills

392. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 565 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the exact amount of pending bills of each private hospital approved by C.G.H.S. which was outstanding as on the 1st August, 2005;

(b) how much amount has been paid to each hospital since 1st May, 2005 if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government had taken against the officials concerned who had delayed the payment to hospitals which has forced them not to attend the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries in emergency on account of inordinate delay in their payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Action against mal-administration in Government Hospitals

393. SHRI ABU SALIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 29th October, 2005, after three bomb blasts in the Capital of the country, the sufferers has to wait for hours and were not provided necessary treatement in a large number of Government Hospitals in the Capital; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such a mal-administration in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) All victims/ sufferers of bomb blast incidents of 29.10.05 who were brought the Central Government Hospitals were immediately attended/admitted and provided treatment as needed. Senior Officers of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Directorate General of Health Services were constantly monitoring the situation in the Hospitals.

Female foeticide in Punjab

394. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rate of female foeticide in Punjab is much higher than in other States;